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**GILDA Z. JACOBS**  
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**ASSISTANT DEMOCRATIC FLOOR LEADER**  
**FOURTEENTH DISTRICT**

Committees  
Economic Development, Small  
Business and Regulatory Reform VC  
Families and Human Services VC  
Government Operations  
Health Policy

# The Jacobs Report

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**Friday, April 4, 2003**

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*For the week ending April 5, 2003*

## **JACOBS' CEMETERY PACKAGE REPORTED OUT OF COMMITTEE**

The Senate Committee on Local, State and Urban Affairs reported Senate Bills 37, 38 & 39 with unanimous recommendation for full passage on Thursday. The three-bill package, sponsored by Senator Gilda Jacobs (D-Huntington Woods), was crafted for the purpose of protecting consumers from unexpected burial costs arising from plot maintenance issues.

“One of my constituents purchased a multiple grave plot in the 1940’s,” explained Senator Jacobs. “Since that time, several members of her family have been buried at that site. A problem developed last summer when her husband passed away. A tree was growing on the chosen burial plot and the cemetery company refused to remove it. After a drawn-out period of wrangling, the company finally agreed to remove the tree—at the widow’s expense of approximately \$2,000.”

The Jacobs package of bills would prevent these situations by amending the Cemetery Regulation Act (and related acts) for the purpose of requiring cemeteries to maintain their property, including gravesites requiring tree removal.

“This legislation will prevent situations such as the one my constituent experienced during her greatest time of loss,” said Jacobs.

## **SENATOR JACOBS HONORED BY DIABETES AND KIDNEY FOUNDATIONS, PUSHES FOR ‘ORGAN DONOR LEAVE ACT’**

Senator Jacobs was honored this week for her contributions to budget and policy issues related to diabetes and kidney disease. Jacobs received the “Friend of Diabetes and Kidney Health Care”

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award from the National Kidney Foundation of Michigan, the Michigan Diabetes Outreach Network, and the American Diabetes Association.

“This is such a great honor,” said Senator Jacobs. “These organizations do very important work in our state. Diabetes and kidney disease are both increasing at alarming rates. Anything we can do in Lansing to help these groups educate more of our citizens about the risks and prevention of diabetes and kidney disease is important work.”

Senator Jacobs recently introduced legislation that would allow state employees to use up to 30 days of leave time to serve as an organ donor. Under the ‘Organ Donor Leave Act,’ state employees who take time off to serve as organ donors will not suffer a loss or reduction in pay as a result of the time away from work. The bill has bipartisan support and is currently in the Senate Commerce and Labor Committee awaiting consideration.

“I hope we are able to get this bill through the committee soon and to the Senate floor for a vote,” said Jacobs. “According to Gift of Life, the Michigan Organ and Tissue Donation Program, there are currently over 2300 Michigan residents waiting for transplants. If this bill enables even one of those people to get a life-saving transplant, it will be well worth it.”

## **JACOBS RESOLUTION CALLS FOR SENATE TO RAISE POW/MIA FLAG OVER THE CAPITOL**

Thursday, Senator Gilda Jacobs introduced a resolution calling for the Michigan Senate to fly the POW/MIA flag over the Capitol in recognition of those who have been prisoners of war or listed as missing in action while in service to our country.

“A long-standing concern of the people of this state has been the fate of our fellow citizens who have served this nation and have been, or are currently, prisoners of war or missing in action,” said Senator Jacobs. “Public displays of the POW/MIA flag are a meaningful way to remind all people of the true cost of our freedoms.”

The Michigan Senate has flown the POW/MIA flag in the past and this flag now flies at the Vietnam Memorial. Rolling Thunder, a national veterans group, has generously offered to donate a new flag for the Senate to use. Senator Jacobs’ resolution calls for the flag to be flown everyday as a reminder of the men and women who are called to serve and sacrifice.

“Flying the POW/MIA flag is an appropriate way to honor those who have protected our way of life,” said Jacobs. “The high price of liberty is even more apparent today with our troops engaged in battle. This flag will serve as a tribute to Michigan’s sons and daughters whose return home we still await.”

**SENATOR JACOBS APPOINTED TO NCSL HEALTH COMMITTEE**

State Senator Gilda Jacobs (D-Huntington Woods) confirmed Monday her appointment to the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) Health Committee.

“I am honored to have been selected to serve on the NCSL Health Committee,” said Jacobs. “The NCSL provides a great forum for lawmakers from across the nation to share ideas and communicate with one another.”

The National Conference of State Legislatures was founded in 1975, and is based in Washington, D.C. The organization is dedicated to improving the quality and effectiveness of state legislatures; promoting policy innovation and communication among state legislatures; and ensuring state legislatures a strong, cohesive voice in the federal system.

“I am looking forward to serving on the NCSL Health Committee and representing the needs of Michigan families,” said Jacobs. “Michigan is not the only state facing fiscal challenges this year. When states share ideas and work together, we can find better solutions to problems many us are dealing with in these difficult economic times.”

State Senator Gilda Jacobs represents the 14<sup>th</sup> Senate District, which includes Beverly Hills, Bingham Farms, Farmington, Farmington Hills, Ferndale, Franklin, Hazel Park, Huntington Woods, Lathrup Village, Oak Park, Pleasant Ridge, Royal Oak Township, Southfield, and Southfield Township. She is the Minority Vice Chair of the Families & Human Services Committee and the Economic Development, Small Business & Regulatory Reform Committee. She also serves on the Government Operations and Health Policy Committees.

**Constituents of the 14<sup>th</sup> District may contact Senator Jacobs at [sengjacobs@senate.michigan.gov](mailto:sengjacobs@senate.michigan.gov) or toll-free at 1-888-937-4453.**

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